

The reauthorization period has been shortened to 1 year to ensure that FAA addresses this matter in the next year. It is our intent that the 1-year reauthorization period in this bill would supersede the longer period in section 1088 of the DOD reauthorization bill.

The new provision on public aircraft is a response to a problem recently experienced by Boeing, McDonnell-Douglas, and other defense contractors. The problem arises because these companies will sometimes lease back from the military aircraft that they had previously sold them. They do this in order to fly them in air shows, flight demonstrations, research, development, test, evaluation, or aircrew qualification. When they do this, FAA now believes that they lose their status as public aircraft and become subject to FAA regulations. However, as military aircraft, they cannot comply with civil regulations.

In order to allow aircraft manufacturers to once again fly their aircraft in air shows and demonstrate them for customers, this bill will make clear that these aircraft retain their status as public aircraft when leased back to the manufacturer from the Government for these limited purposes. This provision will certainly not allow anyone to lease a plane from the military and use it to carry passengers or for similar commercial purposes.

This bill is essentially the same as H.R. 2036 that the House debated on September 29, 1997. I urge support for this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO ED NICHOLS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. KLECZKA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to dispel a myth. Most of us who frequent this Chamber, if we ever stop to consider it, probably think the mace just magically appears and disappears at the start and conclusion of each session. The truth is much harder to believe. For the past 21 years, without missing a single day, a gentleman named Ed Nichols has faithfully carried out the ceremonial duties associated with the mace. An historic symbol of the duty of the Sergeant at Arms to keep order in the House of Representatives, the mace, right behind me, lets us know at a glance when we are meeting in the full session.

Ed has decided to retire at the end of the 105th Congress, and that end has come tonight. His career on Capitol Hill began in 1976 with the office of Sergeant at Arms. Previous to that, he spent several years in the Navy living for a time in Japan with his wife Joan. As assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ed's duties extended beyond the care and feeding of the mace, to include accompanying delegations of Members for a variety of activities, most recently to the funeral services for our late colleague Walter Capps.

Members new to the institution found Ed a willing and friendly source of information as they struggled to get a handle on the legislative process. Perhaps this is where we will miss Ed most of all.

The sense of loss we feel in Ed's retirement is tempered by the knowledge

that a long-cherished dream is about to become a reality. Ed and his beloved wife Joan recently purchased a beautiful home on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Their two sons, Ron and Bobby, and their daughter Susan, along with their four grandchildren, are blocking off vacation time at this home as this tribute is being delivered tonight.

Ed leaves behind a career of dedication to this institution that will not be forgotten or easily duplicated. We join together today to wish him the very best, which is what he gave to us every day.

Ed, good fishing, good golfing, good luck, and, good God, please don't write a book.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, Ed Nichols, I remember, if I may, watching the House of Representatives back in 1982 and 1983, before I even thought of being a Member. I was always so impressed with the opening of the House, even as a citizen, having never in my life having been to Washington or in this Chamber, the ceremony, the seriousness of the matter, the professionalism by which the House is opened each day. Some days it seems like the last moment of professionalism for the House that day, as it gets to be a raucous-caucus place on occasion. But always when Ed Nichols would open that door and bring that mace before us, we knew something important was going to happen in the Nation's business that day.

Ed has done this for 21 years as a service to his country, to this Chamber, and I believe to his family and to each Member here. If I might join the gentleman in wishing my best for you in retirement, may your home never be large enough to hold all your friends, and may you outlive all your enemies.

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am one of the admirers of Ed Nichols. There are many people in this body who walk through your life and leave no imprint, but there are others like Ed Nichols, whom you remember forever. Ed is a person to me who epitomizes everything good about the institution of the House, and that is probably because he is dedicated to it and committed to it and loves this place. You can tell that when you talk to the other people who work around this body and how much they are going to miss Ed Nichols as he leaves to go to his chosen retreat on the Eastern Shore to fish and enjoy time with his family.

I came here 5 years ago, and he was the first person I noticed as I walked in for my first vote. He was the epitome of the dignity that I expected to find after having been honored by my constituents as they chose me to come and represent them. He is the person we

looked toward as we walked onto the floor of the House for votes, who personified the traditions of this great place, the seriousness of this great institution, and the love that those of us who are committed to this House now feel for it.

So for the time I have been here, Ed has been a fixture, and he has made an imprint on my life. He is not somebody that I will soon forget, and it is for this reason, Ed, that I am honored to be able to say thank you for the good things that you have done for those of us who cherish this experience. We know you cherish it along with us. It is my great honor to say thank you on behalf of all of us. We will miss you.

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, in October 1991 when I first came to this House, one of the persons in this House, after I was sworn in, who came to me and said, if I can be of any help, please call on me, and I have to tell you that from that day and even today, I sometimes seek his counsel, and I cherish his friendship.

So, Ed, I want to thank you for the friendship you have given me. I want to thank you for the 21 years of service you have given this country, and I wish you the best and many years of retirement.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. I rise because I am really somewhat shocked this evening, having heard the remarks of my friend from Arizona, my friend from Washington, my friend from Texas. I had been up to this moment convinced I was the only person in this Chamber that Ed Nichols had come to and said, you know, I will do anything for you that I possibly can to help you.

But I find that he was more even-handed than any of us could have possibly thought. He did a great deal, not only ceremonially, but in providing assistance to many of us, and I have to say that I had the great opportunity to get to know Ed and his wife Joan when we used to have those wonderful trips that would go in a bipartisan way every other year to New York City, and I remember those many visits. My friend from New York City, Mr. GILMAN, is applauding once again, hoping we can once again have those sorts of bipartisan quarters. Ed will not be here for those, but he clearly did play a role in facilitating those, making them a very, very enjoyable experience for every one of us.

Obviously, here in this Chamber, as I said, he obviously has helped many, many others, and I appreciate his friendship, and I am very gratified by the directive that has come from my friend from Wisconsin that Mr. Nichols not write a book.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding.

I rise, Ed, on behalf of myself, but also on behalf of the Minority Leader, DICK GEPHARDT; our Whip, DAVID BONIOR; the Chairman of our Caucus, VIC FAZIO, and the Vice Chairman of our Caucus, BARBARA KENNELLY, and all the other leadership and Members on our side of the aisle.

Ed Nichols has chosen well for the Eastern Shore. Now, I represent the Western Shore, and WAYNE GILCHREST is not here, but I am sure that WAYNE would swell with pride and be delighted, Ed, that you are going to spend many years of full enjoyment of not only the Shore, but of the many recreational opportunities it has. As the gentleman from Wisconsin has said, and the majority leader said, a house full of relatives and friends.

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Far too often, as I have said so many times on this floor, the public turns on C-Span and they see confrontation. Sometimes they even see vitriol directed at one another.

What they do not see often enough is the human relationships of which the gentlewoman from Washington [Ms. DUNN] spoke. What they do not see is the commitment and dedication of the folks who sit at the desk and stand on the floor to ensure that in the context of the confrontation of philosophies and ideas, that there is a semblance of order which allows us to do the people's business, which allows this people's House to act in the finest traditions of democracy. It is people who, as has been said before, like Ed Nichols, dedicated to his country, dedicated to this institution.

Ed Nichols has served under 5 Speakers of the House: Speaker Albert, Speaker O'Neill, Speaker Wright, Speaker Foley, and now Speaker GINGRICH. He has served, as my colleagues can tell from listening to the comments made by both sides of the aisle, by Members more liberal, by Members more conservative, he has dealt with each of us in an evenhanded, positive fashion, reaching out to us to assist us in representing to the very best of our abilities the people of our constituencies. And in so doing, he has made a very significant and lasting contribution to the strength of this country and the strength of this institution.

Ed, we will miss you from this floor. We will not forget you. We hope you will return often for that smile and the warm word, the handshake, the nod of encouragement. It meant a great deal to all of us. God bless and Godspeed.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, because I am pleased, and yet I am mournful of the fact that Ed Nichols is leaving us in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I have had people say to me, when they have watched C-Span, they have called and said, who is that good-looking, gray-haired man who brings in the mace? And I think to myself, Ed Nichols, of course.

In fact, somebody even asked me where you lived, Ed. I really wanted to say he is my constituent. He lives in Montgomery County, Maryland. But unfortunately for me, he is moving to the Eastern Shore, to another part of Maryland, but for me he will always be not only my constituent, but my very good friend.

He has seen a lot of things happen in his 20-plus years, his 2 decades plus 1 here on this House floor, and he also has a great sense of humor, and I often think that as we enter the Chamber, there is a statue of Will Rogers there and he is kind of looking down, sort of smiling.

I remember something that Will Rogers said, not because I was there, but I remember reading about Will Rogers making the statement that Congress is a place where somebody speaks and says nothing, nobody listens, and everybody disagrees.

Well, I do not know. I think we have our man here who could give testimony to the fact that a lot of good things do happen in this Chamber. I know that we will always remember the fact that he was there, as has been mentioned, ready to help us, ready to smile, to say everything is going to be fine, this is the way it is done, and very professional, very professional and dignified in all that he did. He made this station be exactly what it should be: One where all of us can look up to what he has done.

So Ed, we appreciate your sense of humor, your professionalism, your dignity, your fairness. On both sides of the aisle we can see tremendous testimony given to you. I will be very careful about those speed bumps in your neighborhood. I do not know whether they have them on the Eastern Shore or not, probably not.

But quite candidly, I will miss you, my colleagues will miss you, and we hope that you have a grand time. As Emerson said to Thoreau, "I meet you at the beginning of a new adventure." May you enjoy your adventure, because you certainly left an impact here. Thank you. Godspeed.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I began my service in this body as a member of the staff, and I have great respect and particular appreciation for those who serve to support this institution and support the Members and guide them, point them in the right

path, and that is what Ed Nichols has been for all of us. He has been a safe haven in a storm, and when things were swirling about and there was confusion on the floor, many is the Member who sought the quiet refuge and the steady hand of Ed Nichols off in the corner, explaining what had happened, predicting what was about to happen, and apologizing when it did not happen that way.

He understands the institutions, he understood each of us and our specific needs, and he responded in a very special and unique way. But the treasure, for all of the kind and wonderful things that others have said about Ed Nichols, the treasure I will carry with me is the treasure of his friendship, the warmth and the caring of a very special person.

I recall when my wife Jo passed away and Ed was there to help with the arrangements for the Mass of Resurrection. For all those who came to pay their respects, he made it all happen in a very orderly and respectful manner, as he has conducted himself in this office that he holds and which he is about to leave.

Adlai STEVENSON, addressing a graduating class, said, "As you leave, remember why you came." Ed will never forget why he came. He came to serve. We thank you for that service.

Mr. KLECZKA. So Ed, on behalf of all of your friends here in the House of Representatives, let me thank you for your 21 years of dedicated service. May you enjoy your retirement in good health and with God's blessing, and know that when I have the annual get-together in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with kielbasa, you are always invited.

#### LIST OF REPUBLICAN MEMBERS SELECTED TO SERVE AS "POOL" FOR PURPOSES RELATING TO COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 6 of rule X, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to serve as need on investigative subcommittees as prescribed by the recently enacted ethics reforms:

Mr. BATEMAN of Virginia.  
Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee.  
Mr. DEAL of Georgia.  
Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.  
Mr. MCCREY of Louisiana.  
Mr. MCKEON of California.  
Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
Mr. PORTMAN of Ohio.  
Mr. TALENT of Missouri.  
Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas.

#### LIST OF DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS SELECTED TO SERVE AS "POOL" FOR PURPOSES RELATING TO COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule X, the Chair lays before the House the following communication: